COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Full 10% Interest Rate Set For Service O'seas Deposits

President Johnson has set the interest rate of the new Overseas Savings Program for all military personnel at the maximum of 10 percent.

Executive Order 11298 establishes the interest rate, and Public Law 89-538 sets the provisions of the "Uniformed Services Savings Deposits," both documents being signed Aug. 14.

The new law makes officers as well as enlisted men eligible. It also contains these features:

- Presidential authority to change the rate from time to time, but not to exceed 10 percent;
- Deposit of amounts as little as $5.00 but not to exceed any serviceman's unallotted pay;
- Accrual of the maximum interest rate set at $10,000;
- Continuation of interest and deposits for 90 days after individual returns to the U.S. or its possessions.

Enactment of the new law replaces the former Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Deposit program, which will phase out gradually at its 4 percent interest rate as present enlistments terminate for each individual depositor.

But depositors under the former program who are now overseas can immediately transfer their savings to the new military banking plan and receive the 10 percent interest rate.

MAC Commander Commends Air National Guard Effort

Air National Guard has been commended by Gen. Howell M. Estes Jr., Commander, Military Airlift Command.

In a personal message to Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson, National Guard Bureau chief, the MAC commander noted, "It is readily apparent that Fiscal Year 1966 was a year of continuous progress and success."

In conveying his gratitude and appreciation to ANG units, General Estes said, "Their efforts and contribution materially assisted MAC in accomplishing its greatly expanded airlift tasks. Response of the ANG units was most impressive and unprecedented as demonstrated by the airlift assistance provided."

SUBIC BAY BRIEFING—LTG Richard D. Meyer, USA, (left), director of logistics for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confers with RAdm. Donald G. Baer, Commander, Naval Base Subic Bay, Philippines. Adm. Baer briefed the general on accelerated logistics support Subic Bay is providing 7th Fleet units in Southeast Asia operations. Marine in center is Corp. John W. Riggin, admiral's orderly.

Navy, AF Aircraft Go On 'Project Stormfury' Alert

Navy and Air Force aircraft are on 72-hour alert from now until mid-October, participating in this year's "Project Stormfury" in conjunction with the Department of Commerce.

Project scientists, aircraft and flight crews are ready to proceed to the staging base at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico, from which hurricane seeding missions will be flown in the Western Atlantic.

The seeding experiments are being intensified this year, with the possibility of modifying the destructive tropical storms.

This year, "Eyewall" clouds surrounding the storm center will be bombarded repeatedly with silver iodide over an eight-hour period in an attempt to produce more pronounced, longer-lasting effects than in previous tests.

The first "Project Stormfury" took place in 1961 as a joint U.S. Weather Bureau-Navy program.

Washington Memos

NEW ELECTRONIC DEVICE has been revealed by Navy. Named Ordnance Locator Mark 15, device is used in detecting contraband hidden aboard "junk fleet" off coast of Vietnam. Cylindrical device, designed by Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Md., is about size of broomstick. Navy said rapid probes with Mark 15 detect rifles, automatic weapons, grenades and munitions in varied cargoes without antagonizing innocent Vietnamese.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TRAINING **has been cited by Marine Corps as paying off in Vietnam. Individual Marine is displaying remarkable endurance and stamina under most grueling field conditions. "He sweats, he hurts, he hungers and he tires," says Marine Corps Commandant, "but he keeps right on fighting."**

MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr. has told about spirit of Marines on Okinawa, enroute to Vietnam, who were lining up to donate blood for fellow Marines down south. He also saw on his recent Okinawa visit a rough, hand-printed "Buy U.S. Savings Bonds" sign. A large percentage of Marines there are buying, he noted.

APPROXIMATELY 50 ADDITIONAL **high schools will participate in new Air Force Junior ROTC program in 1967 at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Announcement was made by BG Donald F. Blake, commandant of Air University's Air Force ROTC.**

SOLAR WIND STUDY is one of many important experiments on NASA's sun-orbiting Pioneer B satellite. Instruments aboard will try to find out if 1,000,000 mph electrically-charged gas from Sun, or solar wind, deflects cosmic rays and shapes Earth's and other planet's magnetic fields.

OPERATION COMBAT LEAVE has airlifted 100,000 servicemen as of mid-August, going to or returning from Southeast Asia, who would have been stranded by strike of five U.S. domestic air carriers. "Combat Leave" started July 10 in response to Presidential concern that hardships resulting from strike should be avoided and that defense requirements be met.

RESERVE TROOP CARRIERS **fleet, composed of Air National Guard C-97s and C-121s and Air Force Reserve C-124s, inaugurated five major coast-to-coast routes connecting Travis AFB, Calif. and McChord AFB, Wash., with east coast during U.S. airline strike. Air Reserve C-119s set up feeder routes across country to ferry personnel to transcontinental route loading points.**

CONTINENTAL AIR COMMAND at Robins AFB, Ga., managed airlift of servicemen during domestic air strike, with airlifters of major Air Force commands assisting when routes, cargo and priorities permitted. Priority was given to servicemen on leave status going to or returning from Vietnam. Other service personnel were carried on space-available basis.

ARMY'S DEVELOPMENT AND **Proof Services at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is conducting "hard-surface" tests on a lunar surface "Mobility Test Article" in connection with NASA lunar surface research. Data obtained may be used in designing a vehicle astronauts could use to travel on moon's surface on exploration missions. Device now under test includes basic mobility system but does not include such items as life support systems or cabin and communications equipment.**

SEABEE STRENGTH IN RVN grew to eight fully-augmented construction battalions with arrival in August of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Nine at Da Nang. Battalion is operating in support of Marine complex and Naval Support Activity there.

COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES **Vietnam has commended commanding officers and ships' companies of Mine Divisions 31, 32, 73, 91 and 93 for their "exceptionally meritorious performance of duty while serving on Market Time patrols." Market Time is name given to anti-infiltration patrols off coast of Vietnam. Men identify, board and search thousands of junks plying coast to prevent shipping supplies to the Viet Cong.**

PLAQUE COMMENDING HIM as first member of armed forces to fire developmental type of rocket ammunition was presented to BG Ellis W. Williamson, Assistant Commandant of The Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga. Gen. Williamson fired a pure rocket round of ammunition known as AVROC from a M-79 grenade launcher.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF **Gen. Harold K. Johnson has directed all communications officer positions in non-Signal Corps units throughout army be occupied by Signal Corps officers. Action revises Tables of Organization and Equipment of other than Signal Corps units to reflect change and will eliminate need for officers of other arms and services to perform communications officer duties. It will also provide these units with Signal Corps officers trained in communications-electronics to fill position of Communications Officer.**

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE CENTER which will quickly inform American public of sizeable earthquakes anywhere in world has been established in headquarters of Environmental Science Services Administration's Coast and Geodetic Survey, Rockville, Md.

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Background for Commanders

African Targets of East Germany

When James Mensa-Bonsu, head of an official Ghanaian economic trade mission, and seven other Ghanaian diplomats arrived in East Berlin in 1964, they were given a royal welcome. Then, one day early in 1966, they found themselves living like prisoners, forbidden to leave East Germany. Their homes in the East Berlin diplomatic compound were barricaded and 15 East German secret policemen stood constant guard outside.

At the same time some 350 Ghanaian students who had come to East Germany to study were also being held. Their pleas to be allowed to leave the Soviet Zone were ignored.

This dramatic change in the East German regime's attitude came on February 24, 1966, when Kwame Nkrumah was ousted as President of Ghana. Although the removal of Nkrumah was certainly a contributing factor, the root cause of the indignities visited on the Ghanaians was the subsequent arrest in Ghana of Major Juergen Krueger, a top ranking East German secret officer whom the new Ghanaian Government accused of being an espionage expert employed by former President Nkrumah to train Communist subversives.

It soon became plain that the Ghanaian diplomats and students in East Germany were being held as hostages for Major Krueger. The East Germans finally permitted them to leave the Soviet Zone on May 25 after the Ghanaian Government agreed to release Major Krueger. Apparently the Soviet Zone Communists had feared that a public trial of this highly-placed East German espionage agent would bring to light their extensive subversive activities not only in Ghana but throughout Africa.

As soon as the news of Nkrumah's fall reached East Berlin, between 50 and 100 Ghanaians who had been brought to East Germany for training as secret agents and Communist Party agitators completely disappeared. It is believed that they are being kept hidden pending an eventual return to Africa.

Preparing for Subversion

Meanwhile, the Africa Institute in Leipzig continues to train African youths in Marxism-Leninism and political agitation. East German agitators and agents also are being prepared for subversive activity in Africa. Their studies include the languages, customs, attitudes and political patterns of various African countries.

The East German Communists have also established a "Friendship Brigade" composed of hundreds of dedicated members of the Communist Free German Youth Organization who are being considered for future assignments in Africa.

East German delegations, in growing numbers, continue to visit Africa. In the first 4 months of 1966 alone, more than 30 East German diplomatic, political, scientific, youth, women's, journalists' and movie-making groups have gone to Africa. One of their primary functions is to spread Communist propaganda.

Each of these missions has included at least one high-ranking Communist Party official posing as a diplomat or as a commercial, industrial or cultural adviser.

In addition, the East German Communists have set up a special fund to encourage African youth, political and economic leaders to visit and study in the Soviet Zone. A trade union institute outside East Berlin is training African trade unionists in the methods of conducting Communist trade union agitation and of organizing Communist shock troops within the trade unions.

A special institute for training African journalists in techniques of Communist propaganda is operating under the guidance of East Germany's top propagandist, Gerhart Eisler. Also, the East German official news agency, ADN, reportedly is distributing propaganda materials to a number of African newspapers and radio stations.

Numerous East German Communist front organizations, such as the African Friendship Association, the Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, the Association for Cultural Relations with Africa and the Union of African Students and Workers, are sponsoring visitors from Africa to East Germany.

The East German radio broadcasts a daily barrage of propaganda to Africa in Arabic, French and English. Recently, the East German Communists have concentrated on establishing "listening clubs" in Africa.

Despite their recent setback in Ghana, the East German Communists show no signs of relaxing their strenuous efforts to build permanent bases for the subversion of Africa.

Sea-Level Panama Canal Route Surveys Underway

President Johnson has told Congress that engineering surveys of possible sea-level canal routes in Panama have begun.

Submitting the second annual report of the Atlantic-Pacific Inter-oceanio Canal Study Commission to Congress, the President noted that when the dry season begins—January 1967—surveying will move into full operation in Panama, and depending on the outcome of current negotiations, also in Colombia.

He also said the route near the border of Nicaragua and Costa Rica is being mapped.

MSTS Ships Conduct 12,358-Mile Trooplift

Deployment by sea of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade from Ft. Devens, Mass., to Vung Tau, Vietnam, is believed to be the longest single point-to-point trooplift of its type in military history.

The trooplift by two ships of the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service covered 12,358 nautical miles, the longest non-stop leg of the journey being 7,291 miles from Long Beach, Calif., to Vietnam.

The transports, USNS Patch and USNS Darby, both sailed from Boston with 3,124 troops on July 15. The ships transited the Panama Canal on July 20, arriving at Long Beach to refuel July 27. They arrived in Vietnam, Aug. 13.

MSTS believes the trip to be a record.

MSTS operates 16 transports, all of which are assigned in the Pacific. The Service recently terminated all non-troop Atlantic passenger travel and transferred the transports to the Pacific in support of military requirements.

Secretary McNamara's Labor Day Message

Labor Day 1966 gives the Department of Defense an opportunity to acclaim again the contribution of the American worker to our Nation's defense. His skill and dedication provide our Armed Forces with military equipment and weapons of unsurpassed quality so essential to the security of our own country and the rest of the free world. Labor is a vital production partner on the national defense team.

On this Labor Day, we are challenged by forces that would destroy freedom.

The continued support of American labor to our resolute resistance to aggression is essential.

ROBERT S. McNAMARA

TROPIC LIGHTNING VISITOR—GEN Harold K. Johnson, USA, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, is met by MG Fred C. Weyand, CG, 25th Infantry Div. (right), on his arrival at the "Tropic Lightning" Division base camp at Cu Chi, Vietnam.

Tri-Service Tests Start On New Landing Mats

Tri-service tests of a new type of landing mats for use in construction of military airfields are underway at Dyess AFB, Abilene, Tex.

About 120 Army combat engineers from Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., have begun work on a 6,000 foot runway and associated facilities.

Tests are expected to end in early 1967. They will include airfield construction, landing and takeoffs by a wide variety of military aircraft, and recovery and disposition of materials upon conclusion of the tests.

Four types of metal landing mats will be installed at the test site—three made of extruded aluminum and one of a new lightweight alumnium honeycomb.

Headquarters, USAF, is Defense Department executive agent for the test project.

Joint Military Exercise Set for Norway Sept. 2-9

United States, United Kingdom and Norwegian military units will participate in a joint combined exercise in Norway, Sept. 2-9.

The U.S. will have Army, Air Force and Marine Corps units in the week-long maneuver designed to give "the national forces opportunity to work together in tactical operations."

All the U.S. forces will be deployed by air to "Exercise Bar Frost" site in the Harstad-Narvik region of Norway.

Tactical Air Command and Military Airlift Command will furnish airlift for U.S. Strike Command forces from the U.S. to Norway, and return.

The Atlantic Command will provide a Marine rifle company to participate in an amphibious landing at the start of the exercise.

U.S. Army and Marine Corps units with the Norwegian Ground Forces will be exercised in cross-country operations, while Air Force units will conduct air support, interdiction and air defense missions in coordination with the Norwegian and U.K. forces.

While in Norway, U.S. forces will operate under the exercise control of Commander Allied Task Force North Norway, Rear Admiral S. Storheill, Royal Norwegian Navy.

Active Duty Extensions OK'd For Army Res. Jr. Officers

A one-time exception to current Army policy will permit junior officers with reserve commissions to apply for active duty extensions for 12, 18 and 24-month periods.

Army said the change "is being made to give junior reserve officers not desiring an indefinite commitment to active duty an opportunity to continue serving during the Vietnam conflict."

The program applies to junior officers due for release between now and June 30, 1968, including those serving short-term extensions. Application for extension must be made before July 1, 1967.

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